



Allamuchy Township School

THE BOARD REPORT



Mountain Villa School

Volume 6, Issue 3

April, 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This edition of the *Board Report* is traditionally devoted to the school budget and the proposed tax levy. The following pages contain summaries of information on the school district's budget and the programs affected by the budget. We also translate that budget into the tax levy so that when you go to the polls on April 17, 2012 you may cast your ballot as an informed citizen. If anyone seeks information on the levy and the budget beyond the summaries provided here, please contact Dr. Frederiks at the school.

SCHOOL ELECTION. We are one of only two municipalities in Warren County and one of only 73 throughout the State which will be holding a school election in April. On January 17, 2012, the Governor signed into law chapter 202 of the Public Laws of 2011. That law empowers either the Board of Education, the municipal governing body or the citizens by petition to move the school election from April to November when it would be included in the general partisan election. There are two operative features of the law: 1) a potential decrease in election costs for school boards as a result of not having to fund an election because it would piggy back onto the fall general election; and 2) removing from the ballot the tax levy question (commonly known as the budget) if it fits within the cap limitation. Our Board decided not to move the election. We are one of the very few to do so. The bill became law on January 17, 2012 and the State required a Board to make a decision by February 17, 2012 if it chose to move the election. Our Board was uneasy about making such a significant decision on such a short notice without any real opportunity to garner input from the public. Moreover, although there would be a modest financial savings in moving the election, the board values the relationship and confidence in the Board which has developed. Indeed, it has been the goal of the Board to generate such confidence. This *Board Report* is one of the vehicles by which we seek to inform the public of our operations as well as our challenges and successes. We trust that with this effort to inform, we generate that confidence. Accordingly, the Board was very reluctant to limit the ability of the informed public to vote on the tax levy, especially without significant input from the public.

LOCAL MANDATES – ANTI-BULLYING. Many may have read in the papers about the District's challenge of the 2011 law known as the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. The District did indeed challenge the law by filing a complaint with the Council on Unfunded Local Mandates. The Council is an autonomous body, created by the New Jersey Constitution to examine whether legislation and State regulations comply with the constitutional requirement that the State fund direct costs imposed as a result of such legislation or regulation. The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights requires districts to provide special training and to create certain positions, both of which generated costs for our District. But the State did not fund these costs. Without incurring the expense of an attorney, we filed the complaint with the Council. It should be noted that the Board is fully supportive of the fundamental anti-bullying policies. Our issue was strictly with the absence of a funding mechanism. On January 12, 2012, the Council, in anticipation of their final written opinion, agreed with the Allamuchy Township Board of Education that the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was an unfunded local mandate. As a result, it is anticipated that the Governor will sign into law legislation recently enacted by the Legislature to fund the previously unfunded local mandates.

RUTHERFORD HALL. After a long, protracted and arduous experience with the local construction official, Rutherford Hall has a certificate of occupancy! This official is answerable only to the State Department of Community Affairs. With the intervention of State Senator Steven Oroho, we were able to obtain the intervention of the Commissioner of the DCA so that our project could be reviewed in an objective and professional fashion. Sen. Oroho did this before the redistricting took effect. He has already been a great advocate for Allamuchy, one of his new constituents.

SHARED SERVICES. Many will recall that we have been in the forefront of cost sharing initiatives among Boards of Education. We shared Chief School Administrator services with Green Township in Sussex County for almost two years and then with the Great Meadows School District for another two years. As previously reported, notwithstanding advocacy by our legislative team concerning the absurd effect of the new administrative regulations, we were unable to continue with the shared services arrangement with Great Meadows, although both districts desired to continue the arrangement and although both districts would have saved significant expense if it were permitted to continue. Both Boards have continued to tackle the problem and we anticipate that we will secure approval of a new arrangement to share CSA services with Great Meadows. This will result in significant cost savings for both districts so that we can achieve greater value in the delivery of educational services to our children.

ELECTION DAY. As Noah Webster stated: "Impress upon children the truth that the exercise of the elective franchise is a social duty of as solemn a nature as man can be called to perform; that a man may not innocently trifle with his vote; that every elector is a trustee as well for others as himself and that every measure he supports has an important bearing on the interests of others as well as on his own." School Election day is April 17, 2012. Please vote.

Francis Gavin, President
Allamuchy Board of Education

Public Engagement at Rutherford Hall

By Amy Hufnagel, Program and Funding Development

With Certificate of Occupancy finally granted to Rutherford Hall, we are all walking a little bit above ground, and already feel the positive benefit of doing our work with public access to the building. This process was long and arduous, and required many month long conversations with code enforcers as we asked to make "exceptions" to standard building treatment for our historic building. Thank you to all who supported our work through this process; with that uphill climb behind us, we are thrilled to share that our first public cultural events have been successful, and well attended. Rutherford Hall will open to the public on Wednesdays from 1-4pm weekly starting April 4th for a suggested donation of \$5 per person, with children under 12 always free.

Here is a partial list of what is upcoming:



Sunday April 22nd 3-5pm Free (Donations welcome!) Tea and Talk, Borough of Rutherford Historian Rodney Leith to speak on John Rutherford (1760-

1840). Mr. Rutherford practiced law in NYC before moving to a farm straddling Sussex and Warren Counties in New Jersey in 1787 (Tranquility Farms). He served in the New Jersey General Assembly from 1788 to 1790 and was then elected to the United States Senate from New Jersey from 1791 to 1798. He is also known for building the plans for the Manhattan street grid north of 14th Street from 1807 to 1811, canal and bridge work. In 1833, he helped settle New Jersey's boundaries with New York and Pennsylvania. This lecture, by Rutherford/Rutherford historian, will surely be a marvelous investigation into the early politics and infrastructure development in NJ.

Friday April 27th 7:30-8:30pm Free (Donations welcome!) Journalist Jonathan Alter author of *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope*, will read and lecture about Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945). Jonathan Alter is an award-winning author, reporter, columnist and television analyst. In May, 2011, Alter began writing a weekly column that appears on Fridays for Bloomberg View, a new commentary site housed under Bloomberg News. He spent 28 years at Newsweek, where he was a longtime senior editor and wrote hundreds of columns and features on a wide variety of subjects. He is also an analyst and contributing correspondent for NBC News and MSNBC. "The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope," published in 2006, was also a bestseller.

Friday, May 11th 3:30-5:30pm Make a Set of 6 Dinner Napkins for Mother's Day. \$6 per child or adult (All ages welcome!) Grab a bunch of your friends and come be creative and celebrate Mom by making her a usable and beautiful homemade present.

Friday, June 15th 3:30-5:30pm Make a Live Terrarium for Father's Day. \$4 per child or adult. (All ages welcome) Perfect gift for Dad's desk at work or home. Grab a bunch of friends and come hike, collect, and be creative while making Dad a unique homemade present.

Sunday June 24th, 3-5pm Ice Cream Social and Lecture by Astronomer/Historian John Briggs (plus parallel kids program by Astronomy Educators) \$6 per person; \$20 per family (up to 6) John Briggs, President of the Historic Telescope Society, will lecture on Lewis Morris Rutherford (ages 12 and up) while Theresa Moody will lead an interactive kids astronomy activity. Everyone meets back together at 4pm for ice cream!

SNEAK PEAK AT SUMMER PROGRAMS

There are programs all summer including music and film; and workshops for children throughout the month of July. For a full schedule of events, please check the website at www.rutherfordhall.org

Registration for camp and workshops opens April 1, 2012 and includes:

July 9-13 Wizardry for Muggles: A Harry Potter Theme Camp (ages 7 -14)

8:45am-1pm Mon-Friday Discover the wizarding world of Harry Potter right here in Warren County, NJ. This summer Rutherford Hall in Allamuchy will be transformed into Hogwart's Castle and become the setting for a Harry Potter theme camp. Participants will be sorted into houses, attend magic classes, play Quidditch, dine in the Great Hall, make potions, and win house points by participating in various challenges inspired by the novels. Led by two English teachers from Hack-ettstown High School and a cast of local actors as counselors, this summer experience will be filled with enough magical memories to last a lifetime. **Cost \$140; 60 participants Participants must bring lunch, water, and sunscreen/hats.**

Save the Dates: Concerts and Films Summer 2012

Educational Workshops for children; Tues-Thursdays throughout the month of July! (costs vary)

July 25-Family Film Night (rated G) 7-9pm FREE

July 29 (Aug 2 Rain Date) Kinderhook and Quimby Mountain Band 3-9pm \$20 per car

August 22-Concert (TBA) 3-5pm FREE

August 26-Family Film Night †(rated G) 7-9pm FREE

September 19-Stone Soup Symphony 7-9pm† FREE

September 30-Music Concert- David Rogers classical guitarist (\$5)

October 3-Jason Wright-NYT's Bestselling author of *The Seventeen Second Miracle: Big Moments vs. Little Moments*; in both school and Rutherford Hall (\$5)

October 7-Tea and Talk Lecture by Raymond Frye about NJ History and the Rutherford Family FREE

October 27 & 28-Haunted Ghost Story Tours-Every hour on the hour 5pm to midnight; (\$5 per person; \$20 per family of 6)

November 4- Keely Schmerber- Classical piano concert (\$5 for adults; kids under 12 free)

November 11- Edith Wharton Sunday; lectures, tea, and wine reception† (\$40)

December 7 & 9 - Merry Making and Giving Open House

More information available on the website www.rutherfordhall.org



(above) Quimby Mt. Band
Appears with Kinderhook on
the Lawn on July 29th



(left) Stone Soup Symphony
returns to the Patio at Rutherford
Hall On September 19



(right) Keely Schmerber
returns to Rutherford Hall on
November 4th

Allamuchy Education Foundation News

ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S 3rd SPRING GOLF CLASSIC
Monday, May 21, 2012 Panther Valley Golf & Country Club
Public Welcome!

Check-in 10:00 a.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m. Shot Gun Start 1:00 p.m.
Cocktail Hour (cash bar) and visits to Rutherford Hall and grounds 5:00 pm
Awards Dinner and Auction 7:00 p.m.

Register online before April 17, 2012: \$150 per golfer (\$600 foursome). After April 15, \$175 per golfer (\$700 foursome).
Awards Dinner and Auction only: \$50 per person (dinner-only guests may arrive at PVGCC at 5:00 for cocktails and/or a visit to Rutherford Hall). Golf fee includes lunch and dinner, cart, non-alcoholic beverages, and is a tax deduction receipt.

Go to <http://www.rutherfordhall.org/ateducationfoundation.html> for a registration form to print and mail, or register online and pay with PayPal. Sponsorship opportunities starting at \$125 are also described; we are also accepting donations for auction items.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to golf, socialize, and network with an expanding base of business professionals! This year's outing will feature contests, a chance to win a car from Johnson Dodge, a 50/50 raffle, and a live auction during the awards dinner—and, **NEW FOR 2012: "THE DIXON CHALLENGE!"** sponsored by Dixon Golf, a "High Performance / Eco-Friendly" golf manufacturer. Proceeds benefit ATEF efforts to provide direct support for educational, cultural, historic, environmental, and health and wellness opportunities in Allamuchy, for both the children and the public. Read the full information release on the website.

Contact: Sal Corino, Golf Chair 646-319-6446 or Mike Virgil, ATEF President 908-850-4502



At the post-outing awards banquet, the ATEF will honor Allamuchy resident Denis Hennessy O'Rourke, Lead Director of Fulton Bank of New Jersey, in recognition of his continued support of the ATEF's efforts to assist the school district: His understanding that community development is important— especially with regard to the school district's innovative repurposing of the Rt. 517 property into Mountain Villa School and his support of the district's collaborative efforts to preserve Rutherford Hall and its historic, educational, and cultural significance—is appreciated and worthy of this recognition.

The ATEF meets monthly on 1st Wednesdays at Allamuchy Township School, Johnsonburg Road, at 7:00 pm, room 149.

Allamuchy Township School District 2012-2013 School Budget

2012-2013 General Fund Budget

Revenues

Local Tax Levy	7,023,122
State Aid	591,957
Miscellaneous Revenue	440,658
Fund Balance	100,000
Total (excluding Federal Aid and Debt Service)	8,155,737

Expenditures

Instruction Regular Program	1,719,599
Instruction Special Education	498,089
Basic Skills	76,350
Co-Curricular and Athletics	73,244
Tuition Hackettstown and Other	1,817,808
Health Service	119,370
Therapy Services	228,570
Guidance Services	48,010
Child Study Team	208,538
Curriculum Development	6,544
Library	26,255
Staff Training	4,000
Administration/Operations/ Legal	
Audit/ Professional Service	411,514
Business Office Services	115,274
Operation of Plant/ Maintenance	697,082
Transportation	643,386
Benefits	1,295,718
Capital Outlay	166,386
Other	0
Total	8,155,737

This Austere Budget Features:

- All Programs Retained
- No Increase in Class Size
- All Extra Curricular Activities Maintained
- No Staff Layoffs

Cost Savings Measures

- Shared Services with Surrounding Districts, CSA, Transportation, Programs
- Energy Savings Initiatives; Updated Electric, Wind Turbines, Purchasing Consortium
- Employee Contributions to Health Premiums for ALL Employees
- E-Rate for Technology
- Revenue Initiatives, Full Day Kindergarten, PSD, Autism Classes
- Cooperative Purchasing and Other Initiatives with the Municipality and Others

School Tax Increase

<u>For a House Assessed at</u>	<u>\$\$ Increase</u>
\$100,000	\$33.50
\$200,000	\$67.00
\$253,300 (Town Average)	\$84.86
\$400,000	\$134.00
\$500,000	\$167.50

Tax Impact—Tax Rate (excluding debt service)

Local Tax Levy	7,023,122
Increase from 2011-2012 Budget	253,536
Percent Increase from 2011-2012 Budget	3.75%
Property Assessments: for each \$100,000 of assessment	
2011-2012 School Tax Rate	\$1.1953
2012-2013 Proposed School Tax Rate	\$1.2288
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$0.0335</u>

ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL NEWS

Bullying Prevention Program begins in Allamuchy

All schools deal with the issue of bullying. With the support of the Allamuchy Parent Teacher Organization, The Allamuchy Education Foundation and the Allamuchy Board of Education, the District is taking proactive steps to stop and prevent bullying by adopting the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. This research-based school wide "systems-change" program has been used successfully in schools all over the country and around the world with positive results.

This program is not a curriculum that students participate in for only a few weeks. Rather, it is a coordinated effort by all the adults in the school to supervise and intervene when any bullying happens. As part of the program, students participate in class meetings to learn about the effects of bullying, what they can do about it, and how they can work with adults at school to put a stop to it even as bystanders. Parents will be informed as well, so they can support the messages students are getting in school. Implementing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is a long-term commitment to making Allamuchy a safer, more positive place to be.

For more information about the program and/or ways to become involved, contact Seth Cohen 908 852 1894 x 101 or scohen@aes.k12.nj.us (Olweus Schoolwide Guide 2007)

Mrs. VanHaste and Mrs. DeAngelis Honored!

The Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Agricultural Society informed the district that Ashley Van Haste has been named the **New Jersey Agricultural Society's 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year**. Ashley's dedication and drive to educate children about the importance of New Jersey agriculture is commendable. We are fortunate to have such an educator on staff! Deb DeAngelis recently received two honors: a grant from Environmental Connections for digital cameras and a photo printer and selection to participate in Project Soil Conservation. Great work!

Seventh Grade Team Builds at Fairview Lakes YMCA Outdoor Adventure!

Another outstanding Outdoor Education experience for our seventh graders! Over two days students climbed high ropes, flew down a zip line, climbed a 25' wall, participated in action socialization experiences, went on a night hike, a hike on the Appalachian Trail and a raucous camp fire! Learning through experience!



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE ALLAMUCHY COMMUNITY

ALLAMUCHY PTO ANNOUNCES ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY!

Spring brings the biggest PTO fundraiser of the year: the Tricky Tray! Come to *A Night in Paris* Saturday, April 28, at the Allamuchy Township School gymnasium, 20 Johnsonburg Road. Doors open at 6:00 PM and calling begins at 8:00 PM. Admission is \$12 at the door (provided tickets are still available). The admission price includes one sheet of Level 1 tickets and complimentary coffee and tea. No one under 21 will be admitted. Proceeds will be dedicated to purchasing additional user licenses for SuccessMaker, an educational software program now being used in the district, which differentiates and personalizes K-8 instruction while aligning with the NJ Common Core Curriculum in reading, language arts, and mathematics. The program adapts to students' diverse learning styles by meeting students at their individual levels, challenging them to achieve their highest potential, and tracking their performance. SuccessMaker also benefits teachers, as individual student performance can be assessed, pinpointing each student's strengths and weaknesses and reporting instructional needs for every child, thus focusing and guiding instructional planning. Students are enthusiastically participating on all levels, and with more user licenses available, more students can even participate at home.

The proceeds of the successful winter 50/50 raffle—prizes were: 1st: \$740; 2nd: \$444; 3rd: \$296—will be used to sponsor various teacher grants. Other highlights celebrated by the PTO so far this year include a Bingo family fun night in conjunction with the Drama Club spaghetti dinner fundraiser and sponsorship of new afterschool enrichment programs for grades 2-5. The PTO was also a key sponsor of a new type of Artist-in-Residence event for Allamuchy that culminated in the original and unique performance of "Sea of Tranquility" at Rutherford Hall.

Spring is also when the PTO hosts the Scholastic Buy One/Get One FREE Book Fair to which families and friends are also invited. Check the school website for details soon.

For detailed information regarding any of the above or about the PTO in general, contact Lisa Strutin at (973)332-2043 or ormom76@gmail.com or Sue McGrath at (908)684-8181 or sue_mcgrath@yahoo.com.



Actors Perform in "The Sea of Tranquility" at Rutherford Hall

Allamuchy Township School District

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Allamuchy, NJ 07820

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ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Grades 2-8
Mountain Villa School
Grades PK -1
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Allamuchy students enjoy the new state of the art computers generously donated by the Rutherford-Stuyvesant Fund. PTO fund raising efforts will further enhance our school's educational technology programs.

Allamuchy Selected as one of only 15 Districts to Participate in NJ Sustainable Schools Project!!

According to the New Jersey School Boards Association: "The New Jersey Sustainable Schools Project will assess the financial benefit of converting older schools to green energy, the contribution of a healthier physical environment to student achievement and the opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education that a green school can provide students." Stay tuned for more details.